Welcome to this new online edition of Community magazine.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a dramatic effect on each and every one of us. I hope that you and your families are keeping well in these extraordinary times. As you’re no doubt aware, because of Covid-19, we are currently unable to offer our usual range of campus services. However, those of you who live close to our campus may have noticed that we have a fair number of students still on site – many of them are our international students unable to return home at present. Our Hospitality, Estates and Student Support and Wellbeing teams are ensuring they’re looked after, with a targeted range of on-campus facilities.

Other members of the University community have also been keeping busy – for example, five of our academic schools have designed and supplied over 2,000 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) for various care service providers and the NHS. Academic colleagues have also been providing expert comment to international, national and local media on everything from coronavirus conspiracy theories to new symptoms and imagined city breaks.

So, we have been keeping busy, but our aim is very much to get back to business as usual as soon as we can, while of course keeping the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, visitors and surrounding communities at the forefront of everything we do. My senior leadership team is working with colleagues to deliver online exams for students finishing this year and to ensure a smooth induction for students returning and joining us for the new academic year in September.

Our aim, at least up until Christmas, is to deliver the majority of our teaching in a blended way – for example, online lectures complemented by face-to-face or online interactive sessions and lecture theatres used for smaller face-to-face group-based activities. However they’re taught, we have made a pledge to all our students that their health, safety and wellbeing, and that of our staff, remains our top priority and the quality of their teaching, learning and experience will not be compromised.

Alongside this detailed planning for the year ahead, we are also working hard to manage the financial impact of Covid-19 on the University, associated with reductions in accommodation, catering, conferencing income and the unknown impact on student recruitment.

I want to make sure that you are updated on the actions the University has taken so far and the contributions our staff and students are making to the regional and national effort to address the impact of Covid-19. Please do access our webpages for further information on all this: www.kent.ac.uk/news/covid19.

I look forward to the time that we can meet up again and circulate on campus, but in the meantime I send you and your families my very best wishes.

Professor Karen Cox, Vice-Chancellor and President
Over 2,000 face shields produced for NHS and care providers

Colleagues from Kent’s Schools of Computing, Architecture and Planning, Engineering and Digital Arts (EDA), Physical Sciences and Biosciences have collaborated to design and supply 3D printed face shields for care service providers and the NHS. Technicians from the schools have distributed 2,270 3D printed face shields so far, to protect staff working on the front line.

Initially, 300 shields were requested, produced, and supplied to East Kent’s largest hospice charity, Pilgrims Hospices and were gratefully received by staff battling against the Covid-19 pandemic.

After supplying Pilgrims Hospices, the project team had a number of requests for face shields from local medical centres and charities, including: Northgate Medical Practice, East Kent Hospital Dermatology department, EK’s Procurement 2gether Support Solutions, QEQM, K&C Hospital theatres, Heron Medical Practice, Avenues Group, K&C Neurorehabilitation, Demelza Hospice Care for Children, Strode Park, Chemotherapy Cancer Project Charity and Affinity Trust. These organisations have now received the face shields from Kent, while we still have more orders being placed.

The production would not have been possible without the support of the Ashford Lions Club, funded by Kent County Council and Santander UK Universities. They have enabled us to purchase more 3D printers and materials to ensure we can continue to meet requests.

With the project initially run by Kent’s Schools of Computing, Architecture and Planning, Engineering and Digital Arts (EDA), the project team was extremely grateful to have colleagues from the Schools of Physical Sciences and Biosciences join to cater to further orders from the NHS, and other healthcare and hospice providers. With their support, a higher quantity of face shields could be produced and distributed to those in need.

If you wish to know more about the project, please see our dedicated Covid-19 page: www.kent.ac.uk/enterprise/covid-19 or email enterprise@kent.ac.uk.

Excess stock donated to local food bank

Kent Hospitality has donated over 500 items to a local food bank during the coronavirus outbreak.

With only one of its ten catering outlets currently open on the Canterbury campus, Kent Hospitality decided to donate their surplus stock to Dover Foodbank to ensure the supplies went to those in need.

The team donated items including canned drinks, crisps, flapjacks and toilet rolls—all of which were gratefully received by the food bank volunteers during this current shortage.

Food banks across the county are still relying on donations from their local community. To find out how you can also support them, visit the Trussell Trust website: www.trusselltrust.org/.

Charities offered free learning in lockdown

The Centre for Philanthropy team is creating free online educational resources for charity sector professionals. Many charities are coping with huge challenges as demand on their services is increasing, while planned fundraising events have had to be cancelled and regular giving is threatened by financial uncertainty. To help share ideas and perspectives on how to better understand and encourage philanthropy, a one-day version of our successful Master’s programme in Philanthropic Studies is now freely available online.

The Centre for Philanthropy staff are also developing a Future Learn MOOC (massive open online course) on ‘Understanding Fundraising’ which begins on 8 June 2020, offering three weeks of guided learning on all aspects of the basic principles and practices involved in securing voluntary income for good causes. Pre-register your interest in this course by emailing philanthropy@kent.ac.uk.
Dr Lisa Lin, Lecturer in Media Studies in the School of Arts, has co-produced an exclusive report exploring the outbreak of Covid-19 in Wuhan, which aired on Channel 4 News on Friday 17 April 2020.

The report is entitled ‘From lockdown to unlocking: video diary of life in Wuhan during the coronavirus outbreak’. It provides a visual documentation of Wuhan’s community volunteers – who delivered critical medical resources and monitored residents’ body temperature during lockdown – and work resumption and online health tracking systems post-lockdown.

On 8 April 2020, Wuhan lifted its travel restrictions after 76 days in lockdown due to Covid-19. Highly intrusive real-time health status tracking was key to the eventual lifting of the lockdown. Temperature checkpoints can be seen everywhere across the city with ‘health codes’ being checked to exit and enter housing complexes, shops, and workplaces.


With Covid-19 lockdown in place, it can be challenging for parents to keep children mentally stimulated and entertained with home education.

Professor Tracy Kivell and Dr Matthew Skinner of Kent’s School of Anthropology and Conservation have created several interactive educational materials aimed at primary and secondary school children to improve their understanding of human evolution.

The materials were developed to be both engaging and scientifically accurate and to provide education on the history of human ancestors. The downloadable print files can be found here: www.kent.ac.uk/news/community/24919/human-evolution-educational-materials-for-home-learning.

Additionally, to support the many currently home-schooled students anticipating GCSE and A-Level assessments this year, the School of History has released 13 packages of History resources for home schooling teachers and students, all of which are in line with the current GCSE and A-Level curriculums. Resources which include exam practice, Q&As and source questions can be found here: www.kent.ac.uk/history/news/1164/history-resources-teachers.

The School is also re-launching its highly successful free MOOC (massive open online course) on British military history, focusing on Waterloo, the Empire, WW1 and WW2. The first launch of the course saw a sign-up of 1,500 people from across the world, and features six weeks of content, filmed lectures, short articles, quizzes and online discussion forums. Registration for the free MOOC can be completed via: www.futurelearn.com/courses/waterloo-to-the-rhine.

Like everyone else, the Kent Law Clinic is having to adapt to social distancing and the rapidly changing environment. Our legal volunteers led the last two evening advice sessions of the term over the telephone to ensure that clients were still able to receive timely legal advice.

Clinic success stories so far this year have included a large criminal injury payment – just under £90,000 – awarded to a client. This case involved the cumulative efforts of many Clinic students, four Clinic solicitors, as well as co-ordinators. Another success, in February, saw solicitor Vivien Gambling joining forces with Law student Meredith Armstrong to help a client obtain disability benefits, which were previously denied.

The Clinic continues to function as best it can to try and ensure people who live and work in Kent can access the support that’s available as well calling for more, better and faster assistance.

For more info go to: blogs.kent.ac.uk/kentlawclinic
Study of benefits support during Covid-19

A research team from the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research has been awarded funding by the Economic and Social Research Council to investigate how the benefits system is responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

The grant, announced as the number of people claiming unemployment benefit soared to 2.1 million in April, is part of UK Research and Innovation’s rapid response to Covid-19.

The project will be led by the Sustainable Housing & Urban Studies Unit (SHUSU) at the University of Salford, will be working in collaboration with Kent, the University of Leeds, Leeds University Business School and London School of Economics. It will include an online survey of 8,000 new and existing benefit claimants. The research will investigate whether people receiving benefits such as Universal Credit are getting the income and employment support they need as the crisis unfolds. This project will provide rapid large-scale evidence for policy-makers on how well we are meeting these challenges.

Expert tips to improve your home Wi-Fi

Many of us currently working at home have found that the signal from our own Wi-Fi is not as strong as we’d like. Dr Huiling Zhu, a wireless communications expert from the School of Engineering and Digital Arts, has some top tips to improve your home Wi-Fi.

Try not to have your device close to your neighbour’s side as your device may start to compare the signal strength from two different routers, affecting the connection.

Finally, turn off all other operations your Wi-Fi is trying to cope with. If you’re working on a laptop/pc, then turn off your phone’s connection to the Wi-Fi, and video game consoles too.

£500 grants on offer for community support

The University continues to support Kent and Medway businesses and in these difficult times we are reaching out to all businesses, small and large, to offer our support both during the lockdown and economic recovery.

Kent Business School and Santander Universities UK are offering Kent and Medway business grants of up to £500 during the Covid-19 emergency.

The grants are available to businesses which are helping or would like to help communities hit by the pandemic, such as food delivery, wellbeing or outreach projects.

Applications for the grant can be submitted to Kent Business School at kbsbusiness@kent.ac.uk.

Academic staff volunteer to support epidemic modelling

While the impact of Covid-19 has been devastating, it has been heartening to hear about how our research community has been supporting frontline services.

A number of statisticians and mathematicians from the School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science have volunteered as part of the Royal Society’s Rapid Assistance in Modelling the Pandemic call. The Royal Society has asked for help in the hope that modelling the pandemic will be done as quickly and efficiently as possible. We are incredibly proud that our academics are performing such a crucial role in helping to keep the nation safe.
The University has launched a fundraising campaign to help support its contribution to the fight against Covid-19.

The campaign aims to raise funds for the production of free-of-charge Personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline staff, those students who may be experiencing financial hardship as a result of the pandemic, Kent research and the new Kent and Medway Medical School.

The campaign was launched via messages of encouragement and support from the University’s Chancellor Gavin Esler, and Kent Union President Sasha Langeveldt. To watch their video go to: “A response from University of Kent Chancellor Gavin Esler and Kent Union President Sasha Langeveldt” on the University of Kent’s YouTube Channel.

Kent has contributed to the fight against the pandemic in a number of ways. To date these include:

- Research collaborations to develop Covid-19 therapies and a vaccine
- The design and production of face shields for staff in the NHS, hospice and charitable care organisations
- The provision of specialist molecular biology equipment to the NHS

Creative writing to aid our lockdown mental health

Mental health is a priority during the Covid-19 lockdown, particularly with enforced social distancing and self-isolation.

A wealth of academic literature highlights the benefits of creativity as an outlet for anxiety and stress and for promoting wellbeing, notably the therapeutic potential of writing creatively.

The University of Kent’s Writing Minds project provides a creative and supportive environment, a space for community, connectedness, expression and reflection. Open to everyone, the website offers regular creative prompts and experiments designed to tap into new forms of inspiration drawn from the everyday. No creative writing experience is necessary to take part, and the site offers the option for participants to share their work.

All those interested in accessing Writing Minds can do so at www.writingmindscommunity.com/

Boosting wellbeing through nature

The Kent Community Oasis Garden (KentCOG) is a collection of students, staff and community members working to create a sustainability and wellbeing hub centred around growing food.

Due to current circumstances, the garden is closed. However, we recognise how important connecting with nature is, especially for our mental health.

To fill the gap, KentCOG Coordinator Emily Hill is hosting weekly Grow Your Wellbeing online sessions via Zoom every Wednesday afternoon (14.00 – 15.00) with practical advice on trying Ecotherapy at home.

Sign-up by visiting eastkentmind.org.uk and complete a registration form online, or email info@eastkentmind.org.uk.

To donate to this important campaign please visit https://giving.kent.ac.uk/covid-19.
Dates for your diary

Congregations
Due to the impact of Covid-19, we have taken the difficult decision to postpone this July’s graduation ceremonies to November 2020.

Gulbenkian recommends:
Gulbenkian have put together a list of what’s happening online so you don’t miss out on some exciting opportunities from their partners and friends.

Some of the exciting showings happening this month are:

- **National Theatre at home**: Every Thursday much-loved National Theatre Live productions will be made free to stream on YouTube for seven days as part of #NationalTheatreAtHome.
- **Andrew Lloyd Webber Musicals Online**: YouTube channel “The Shows Must Go On!” will be releasing a full-length, smash-hit musical once a week for you to watch for free!
- **Shakespeare’s Globe**: Enjoy a Shakespeare-filled movie night, Shakespeare’s Globe are productions online on YouTube and on BBC iplayer as part of Culture in Quarantine: Shakespeare.

The list will be updated regularly so please don’t forget to check or sign-up to their mailing list:
https://thegulbenkian.co.uk/gulbenkian-recommends/

For more key dates visit:
Kent – www.kent.ac.uk/calendar
CCCU – www.canterbury.ac.uk/termdates

Who to contact

If you are experiencing problems with your neighbours, use the contacts below for information and advice.

**Noise**
T: 01227 862 202 E: envhealth@canterbury.gov.uk
www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20045/noise_and_air_pollution/65/report_a_noise_smell_or_smoke_problem

**Rubbish**
T: 0800 031 9091 E: help.canterbury@serco.com
www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20025/household_waste/120/report_a_missed_bin

**Parking**
T: 01227 862 429 E: parking.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk
www.canterbury.gov.uk/info/20062/parking_fines_and_restrictions/43/report_illegal_parking

**Crime or anti-social behaviour**
T: 101 to report non-urgent crime T: 999 to report an emergency
Find out who your Police Constable or Police Community Support Officer is by entering your postcode at www.kent.police.uk

**Students**
Both universities take the concerns of our neighbours very seriously. If residents experience anti-social behaviour, whether they believe it to be by students or not, they should contact the agencies listed above as they have the power to intervene. However, if you need further support both universities have a community liaison person who can provide further advice.

University of Kent – E: communityliaison@kent.ac.uk
Canterbury Christ Church University – E: community liaisons@canterbury.ac.uk

---

HOME WORKOUTS FOR KENT SPORT MEMBERS

To keep fit and healthy while at home, Kent Sport members are being offered an exclusive, free 60-day trial of Les Mills on demand. Workouts include strength, cardio HIIT, dance, flexibility and more.

We know that staying fit and active is our best way to build a strong immune system and stay healthy. Regular physical activity is proven to combat stress and provide mental health benefits.


NEW MASTER’S PROGRAMME WITH PANDEMIC FOCUS

Kent Law School is launching a new Master’s programme in Law and Health for September 2020.

The Kent LLM (Master’s in Law) is designed for those with a background in law, as well as healthcare professionals across the sector, including those with training in medicine, nursing, midwifery and allied disciplines. The course will consider issues at the intersection of health and law, in both its social and political contexts. This year, a sustained focus on issues raised by the Covid-19 pandemic will offer a jumping-off point for broader study.

For more information, go to:
www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/132/law-and-health

---

We’re working together with Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury City Council and Kent Police to provide our local residents with key dates and useful contacts for information and advice.